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6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
8 **FRESNO DIVISION**

9 JOSE RAMOS CARRILLO,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 FRANK BISIGNANO<sup>1</sup>, COMMISSIONER  
13 OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

14 Defendant.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00459-EPG

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; ORDER**

**(ECF No. 16).**

15 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel,  
16 subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount  
17 of EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND 44/100 (\$881.44) under the Equal Access to  
18 Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). This amount represents compensation for all legal services  
19 rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2412(d).

21 Plaintiff was the prevailing party in this matter and Plaintiff is an individual whose net worth  
22 does not exceed \$2,000,000 at the time the civil action was filed.

23 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the  
24 matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to Plaintiff's attorney. Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.  
25 Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this Court belong to the Plaintiff and are subject to

26 <sup>1</sup> Frank Bisignano became the Commissioner of Social Security on May 7, 2025. Pursuant to Rule 25(d)  
27 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Frank Bisignano should be substituted for Leland Dudek as the  
28 defendant in this suit. No further action need be taken to continue this suit by reason of the last sentence of  
section 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

offset under the Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Any EAJA fees should therefore be awarded to Plaintiff and not to Plaintiff's attorney. If, after receiving the Court's EAJA fee order, the Commissioner (1) determines that Plaintiff has assigned his right to EAJA fees to his attorney; (2) determines that Plaintiff does not owe a debt that is subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program, and (3) agrees to waive the requirements of the Anti-Assignment Act, then the EAJA fees will be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney, JONATHAN O. PEÑA-MANCINAS at the firm, PEÑA & BROMBERG, PC. However, if there is a debt owed under the Treasury Offset Program, the Commissioner cannot agree to waive the requirements of the Anti-Assignment Act, and the remaining EAJA fees after offset will be paid by a check or electronic fund transfer (EFT) made out to Plaintiff, but delivered to Plaintiff's attorney, JONATHAN O. PEÑA-MANCINAS at the firm, PEÑA & BROMBERG, PC.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Counsel including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

The parties further agree that the EAJA award is without prejudice to the right of Plaintiff's attorney to seek attorney fees pursuant to Social Security Act § 206(b), 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(c)(1) (2006).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 18, 2025

/s/ *Jonathan O. Peña*

JONATHAN O. PEÑA  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: September 18, 2025

ERIC GRANT  
United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of Program Litigation  
Social Security Administration

By: *\* Erin Jurrens*

Erin Jurrens  
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Attorneys for Defendant  
(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
obtained via email on September 18, 2025).

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**ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (ECF No. 16), **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND 44/100 (\$881.44) as authorized by the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), are awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 19, 2025

/s/ Eric P. Grogan  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE